



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC
Meeting Minutes
Michigan Historical Museum
Lansing, Michigan
October 8, 2007

Board of Directors

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Francis "Bus" Spaniola,
President
Corunna

Tom Truscott,
Vice-President
Lansing

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Secretary
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Adriana Greci Green
Detroit

Keith I. Pohl
Mason

Charles Seeley
Lansing

Tom Shawver
Lansing

Louise W. Stilwill
East Lansing

Paul M. Tarr, Jr
Lansing

Bill Wellman
East Lansing

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
Lansing



Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:27 AM.

Board Members Present: Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Keith Pohl, Charles Seeley, Bus Spaniola, Louise Stillman, Paul Tarr, Tom Shawver, Morris Thomas, and Geneva Wiskemann.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Larry Griffin, Ralph Sims, and Tom Truscott.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Larry Griffin, Ralph Sims, Tom Truscott, and Bill Wellman.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

Michigan Historical Center Foundation (Foundation) Present: Pat Clark and Carol Payne.

Guests Present: Mark Harvey (*State Archivist*).

Approval of Agenda

A request was made by Chris Dancisak to place two fiscal year 2007/2008 budget items on the agenda during his Museum Report. The first was for \$700 in honoraria for Archaeology Day (October 13, 2007). The second budget request was for a \$2,000 sponsorship for the Second Annual WinterFest (December 8 and 15, 2007).

A request was made by Mark Harvey to place on the agenda a request for \$5,095 for supplies and equipment for the Leavenworth Photograph Preservation project.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda by adding the above referenced items and approve the amended agenda; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the September 10, 2007 Board meeting; motion passed.

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President Report

President Spaniola expressed concerned about lack of "Friends" newsletter. Chris Dancisak indicated that the newsletter fell "through the cracks." He indicated that an insert could be put into the Foundation's *Front and Center* if the Board could come up with the material. President Spaniola appointed a Newsletter committee, composed of Paul Tarr, Tom Shawver, and Keith Pohl as co-chairs. The committee set as a goal coming up with a December insert.

A discussion took place between the Friends and the Foundation representatives regarding how the Friends would like to see monthly Foundation new member/financial reports generated. It was agreed that future reports would change the current column title from "Gifts" to "Net Proceeds" and a column would be added entitled "Administrative Costs."

New Board Member Dr. Morris Thomas was introduced. Dr. Morris is a geographer and is interested in historical Michigan geography. He taught at Lansing Community College and currently teaches two classes at Michigan State University.

Treasurer Report

BALANCE	09-01-07	12,329.51
DEPOSIT	09-31-07	
	FOMH	788.00
	Fayette	<u>143.00</u>
		931.00
TOTAL		<u>+ 931.00</u> = 13,260.51
CASHED CHECKS		
# 1322	McComas (Ribbons)	825.74
# 1324	Weipport (ME)	10.58
# 1325	Fayette	109.80
# 1326	Dancizak	142.93
# 1327	Harrison	95.40
# 1329	Keystone Printing	164.30
# 1330	Fayette	<u>143.00</u>
TOTAL		1,491.75 - 1,491.75
BALANCE	09-30-07	= 11,768.76
UNCASHED CHECKS		
# 1328	Historic Fort Wayne	250.00
ALLOCATED FUNDS		
	Document Conservation	1,000.00
	Museum Hunting Exhibit	1,137.24
	Michigan Oral History	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL		2,887.24 - 2,887.24
AVAILABLE FUNDS	09-30-07	= 8,881.52

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A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

A. Replacement for DVD Player (\$47.69)

A motion was made and seconded to approve payment of \$47.69 for a replacement DVD player for the Museum from funds previously approved by the Friends for the Museum's Hunting Exhibit of \$1,137.35; motion passed.

It was indicated that the museum would no longer need the remaining \$1,089.55 (\$1,137.24 – \$47.69) in funds that had been allocated for the Hunting Exhibit.

A motion was made and seconded to move the remaining \$1,089.55 from the currently restricted account for the Hunting Exhibit back to the general fund; motion passed.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak indicated that he wish to request that two budget item for fiscal year 2007/2008 be considered by the Friends. The first was for \$700 in honoraria for Archaeology Day (October 13, 2007). Forms for payment would be submitted directly to the Friends. A questions was asked if the Friends could get back information on the individuals that its provides an honorarium. Chris stated that that could be done.

A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$700 for Honoraria in conjunction with Archaeology Day (October 13, 2007); motion passed.

The second budget request was for a \$2,000 sponsorship by the Friends of the Second Annual WinterFest (December 8 and 15, 2007) The \$2,000 request would be comprised of \$500 in honoraria, \$300 in decorative supplies, and \$1,200 in paid advertising in the *Lansing State Journal* and local radio. It was indicated that the phrase "Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History" would appear in the advertising.

A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$2,000 to sponsor the Museum's Second Annual WinterFest (December 8 and 15, 2007); motion passed.

In response to a question regarding the state's budget issue and its impact on the Museum, Chris stated that he had no idea at that time as to what the impact will be to the Museum.

Committee Reports

A. *Map Preservation Committee*. No report by the Committee. Mark Harvey asked if the \$1,000 previously set aside for map protection by the Friends could be used to purchase protective folders for the maps. He was informed that it could.

B. *2007 Veterans Day Program Committee*. It was indicated that the information regarding the program was on the web site. The program will take place on November 4, 2007 beginning at

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2:00 PM. The speaker will be Mr. Donald Burgett of Howell, Michigan. Mr. Burgett was a member of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division during World War II. Wounded three times, he served in four major campaigns, including the invasion at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge - all before he turned 21. Mr. Burgett has written four books about his service as a Screaming Eagle and has contributed to seven television documentaries. Geneva Wiskemann was asked to see about getting the program videotaped.

A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to \$600.00 for the 2007 Veterans Day Program; motion passed

C. *Board Nominating Committee.* Keith Pohl was asked to inquire as to why new Board members Ralph Sims and Larry Griffin could not attend today's meeting.

D. *Membership Committee.* No report.

E. *Magazine/Military Committee.* It was reported that it was anticipated that a Christmas package of back issues of *Michigan History* would be sent to the Michigan soldiers in Iraq.

F. *Grants Committee.* No report.

Old Business

A. *License Plates.* President Spaniola briefly reported on his continued efforts to have the state establish a Michigan History license plate. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is pending.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status.* Keith Harrison reported that he had been in contact with and had provided the Friends organizational documents to Sara Pierson, an attorney in the Michigan Treasury Department regarding the Friends' IRS Group Exemption Application. The material was currently being reviewed by Ms. Pierson.

C. *Telephonic Board Attendance.* President Spaniola indicated that the equipment could be arranged for in the Board's 5th floor Museum meeting room once the Board again has access to that room. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability. A general discussion ensued regarding other meeting locations where telephonic equipment could be obtained and used. No conclusion was reached. For the time being, the Board will need to continue to meet on the 1st floor of the Museum until the construction was completed on the 5th floor. Telephonic connections for Board members who cannot travel to Lansing will need to be addressed again at that time.

New Business

A. *Conservation of Historical Photographs.* State Archivist Mark Harvey indicated that the state is currently in the process of conserving Oldsmobile, Michigan State University, and Lansing Business historical photographs (Leavenworth Collection) and will need support in the range of \$5,000. According to Mr. Harvey, there was an immediate need for boxes and envelopes to begin the segregation process of the Leavenworth collection. Negatives will be segregated, re-housed in acid free containers and original negatives will be frozen until they can be reproduced. Due to the hazards of the material, the negatives are currently stored offsite. The

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degradation problem is immediate. A conservation expert has estimated that the state would lose 5 to 15 percent of the collection each year if no action is taken. The state currently is writing a "Save America's Treasures" grant with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and a preservation grant with the National Endowment for the Humanities. However, neither of these, if awarded, would begin funding until late 2008 or early 2009.

The request was broken down in terms of immediate and additional needs.

Immediate Needs:

1. 350 boxes for 8 x 10 negative @ \$5.70 each \$1,995
2. 5,000 8 x10 negative sleeves @ \$0.22 each = \$1,100

Total: \$3,095

Additional Needs:

1. 1 laptop for scanning @ \$1,500 = \$1,500
2. 1 high-resolution scanner @ \$500 - \$500

Total: \$2,000

Total Support Request: \$5,095

Considerable discussion took place in terms of both above request and the concern that if granted that the Friends' treasury would be greatly reduced and possibly to an extent of not being able to assist other state needs during the upcoming fiscal year. The request was taken under advisement and review by the Board.

B. Bylaws Review - A committee was appointed to look at the Friends Bylaws given the changes that have taken place this last year in terms of the Board's relationship to the Museum and also in anticipation of the changes that will be recommended from the tax attorney who is currently looking at the Friends organizational documents. The committee would be composed of Keith Harrison as chair, Richard Johnson, and Bus Spaniola.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, 2007, in Lansing.